

RFP Announcement for Fiscal Year 2007 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007)

NO RFP WILL BE ISSUED FOR FY07

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Title II of which authorizes and funds Adult and Family Literacy grants, expired at the end of FY 2004. Since 2004, states have operated under continuing resolutions passed by Congress. Because the reauthorization of WIA has not yet passed, the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) at the U.S. Department of Education directed states to extend currently approved plans for one more year. OVAE also allowed states to extend current grants for the same time period and Washington's Council for Basic Skills recommended that this state do so.

Following federal guidelines all currently funded Adult and Family Literacy providers are eligible for a one-year continuance upon submission and approval of the FY 2007 extension documents and budget/s. Extension materials required from each provider requesting continued funding include:

- Grant Extension Narratives
- Grant Extension Assurances
- Budget Documents for each program for which funding is extended: ABE, and EL/Civics

Extension documents will be mailed to the State Department of Education/Office of Adult Education by May 31, 2006. See information below

Current providers that require additional information should contact Cheryl Engel at csengel@sde.idaho.gov or call (208) 332-6933.

Guidelines

These guidelines are prepared to assist interested and eligible agencies, organizations and institutions in the application process for funds under the state-administered adult education program.

Adult Education and Family Literacy Act Grants

The purpose of the AEFLA grant program is to:

- Assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self sufficiency
- Assist adults who are parents to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children
- Assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education or its equivalent

Under new authorization, any or all agencies listed below may apply for AEFLA funding. Programs eligible to apply for AEFLA grants include:

- Local education agencies (LEAs)
- Community based and faith based organizations of demonstrated effectiveness
- Volunteer literacy organizations of demonstrated effectiveness
- Higher education institutions
- Non-profit agencies
- Libraries
- Public housing authorities
- Correctional institutions
- Non-profit institutions not described above and having the ability to provide literacy services to adults and families
- Consortia of the entities described above

Funds awarded to local providers must be used to provide educational services* below the postsecondary level to those members of the community who:

- Are at least 16 years old;
- Are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law;
- And
 - lack sufficient mastery of basic educational skills to function effectively in society, or
 - do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or
 - are unable to speak, read, or write the English language

*Educational services must be in one or more of the following categories:

- Adult education and literacy services, including workplace literacy services
- Family literacy services
- English literacy programs

In awarding grants to local providers under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act the State must take into consideration:

- The degree to which the program will establish measurable goals for participant outcomes

- The past effectiveness of a program in improving the literacy skills of adults and families and its subsequent success in meeting or exceeding federal and state performance measures. For new programs, the State Office of Adult Education will work closely with you to assist you in meeting or exceeding federal and state performance goals.
- The program's commitment to serving those individuals in the community who are most in need of literacy services
- The program's ability to offer services of sufficient intensity and duration for participants to achieve substantial learning gains and the program's use of effective instructional practices
- Whether the program's activities are built on a strong foundation of research and effective educational practice
- Whether the program's activities effectively employ advances in technology including computers
- Whether the program's activities provide learning in real life contexts
- Whether the program is staffed by well-trained instructors, counselors, and administrators
- Whether the program coordinates with other community resources
- Whether the program offers flexible schedules and support services
- Whether the program maintains an information management system capable of monitoring and reporting participant outcomes. (The SDE/ Office of Adult Education provides training to all grant funded providers in the use of the Idaho Management and Accountability System (IMAS), which meets the requirements of the National Reporting System (NRS)
- Whether the community has a demonstrated need for additional English literacy programs

Currently Funded Programs

There are seven local providers currently funded with AEFLA grants. The list of current providers includes the six regional ABE programs located on the campuses of each of the Idaho State Post-Secondary Institutions and one grant administered to Corrections. Through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the SDE/Office of ABE solicits and evaluates on a competitive basis proposals/applications for funding. However, because the Workforce Investment Act has not yet been reauthorized by Congress, no RFP will be issued for FY06-07.

Please locate the One-Year Continuation Application for 2007 in the following ways:

- SDE/ABE Website: www.sde.state.id.us/certification/AdultEd.asp (menu: Under Documents)
- Call Cheryl Engel at the SDE at 208-332-6933 and provide the necessary information for the application to be sent by fax, email, or regular mail

Application Process:

- The dead-line for submission of the One-Year Continuation Application for 2006-2007 is May 31, 2006.
- Forward the original and one copy of the completed application to:

Cheryl Engel
State Department of Education
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0027

Since no new RFP is available for 2006-07; the One-year Continuation Applications will be reviewed by the State Director of Adult Education and the State Department of Education Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Certification/Professional Standards and Adult Services to assure that the proposal meets all state and federal guidelines. Upon project approval for funding, a grant award letter is issued to the chief administrator of the program.

Program Requirements

Programs funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act administered by Idaho State Department of Education (ISDE)/Office of Adult Education must comply with the post-funding requirements of the grant. The compliance of funded programs is monitored by ISDE through programs' Annual Performance Reports, the Statistical Report, and monitoring visits.

Non-Fundable Activities

Activities that are NOT fundable under AEFLA include:

- Instruction to participants assessed above the post-secondary skills levels of education
- Instruction to youth under the age of 16
- ESL instruction to adults at SPL 7 or higher
- Computer literacy instruction that is stand alone and not integrated with basic literacy skills instruction
- Job training
- Services to foreign students with F-1 visas (See policy manual for further information regarding this population)